

EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION

1. “Nationally, 46% of children come to school unprepared to succeed. School readiness is defined as meeting the physical, social and emotional developmental milestones expected for children starting kindergarten, and readiness is directly linked to long-term personal economic success.” *Educational Preparedness*, United Way for Southeastern Michigan, 12/5/06; (www.uwsem.org/_collateral/pdf/research/Vision2018_education.pdf)
2. “While many workers continue to use skills learned in an Industrial age, demands have changed and require skills for service and knowledge jobs. In 1955, 40.5 percent of the U.S. workforce was engaging in manufacturing, construction, and mining. By 2005, those industries employed only 15.8 percent of the workforce. Service-producing industry sent paychecks to 41.8 percent of workers.

Despite the need to change, two-thirds of employers said that public school students don't have the basic cognitive skill to succeed. One-third of the employers said the recent graduates had poor writing skills and 23 percent had poor math skills. One-third also said that young workers have problems with punctuality and attitude. (Source: Yankelovich Partners, 2005; www.super-solutions.com/PerfectLaborStorm_SkilledWorkerShortages.asp)

3. “More than 6 million students attend the 2,819 four-year institutions full time, and 2.6 million more part time. One in four freshmen does not return as a sophomore [2.15 million students]. Half who matriculate do not graduate even in five years [4.3 million students].” (George F. Will, “Disorder in the Schools,” *Time*, 4/13/98, p. 84)
4. In writing tests, roughly *two* percent of students in the eleventh grade “can write effective responses containing supportive details and discussion.” (Jay R. Campbell et al., eds, “Report in Brief, NAEP [National Assessment of Education Process] 1996 Trends in Academic Progress,” National Center for Education Statistics, p.12)
5. “*Adult Literacy in America*, a 150-page survey conducted by the Princeton-based Educational Testing Service and released by the Department of Education, reported that roughly 90 million Americans over age 16 - almost half that category's total population - are, as far as most workplaces are concerned, basically unfit for employment. ...Perhaps the worst news from the survey was the hubris expressed by those who were tested: when asked if they read well or very well, 71% of those in the bottom grade said yes.” (Paul Gray, “Adding up the Under-skilled,” *Time*, 9/20/93, p. 75)

6. "...a very small pool of young people today appear educationally prepared for many of the occupations projected to grow most rapidly in the 1990-2005 period." (*Outlook 1990-2005*, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bulletin 2402, May 1992, p.10)

7. Although all business and government projections emphasize the need for a work force that understands other cultures and global concerns, seventy-seven percent of students graduate from a college or university without taking a foreign language, seventy-five percent of U.S. adults cannot locate the Persian Gulf on a map despite frequent news stories about the area, and forty-two percent of college seniors cannot identify the Koran as the sacred text of Islam. (Joseph H. Boyett and Henry P. Conn, *Workplace 2000*, Penguin, 1991, Chapter Nine)